

## Hôtel-Dieu de France: A Hospital at the Forefront of Medical Technologies

Hôtel-Dieu de France, Saint-Joseph University's Medical Center, kick-started this year on a positive note by achieving remarkable successes that have contributed to the improvement of medical services in Lebanon and the region. Regardless of the prevailing socio-economic crisis, the hospital was able to remain firmly committed to ensuring the highest quality of health care for its patients and to keeping pace with the latest innovations in the medical field, therefore asserting one of its main missions that call for participating in medical advances. In this context, three ground breaking procedures were performed at HDF in three different medical departments.



The Cardiology team with Dr. Antonio Frangieh and Prof. Rabih Azar

invasive percutaneous alternative is evolving rapidly and requires modern medical technologies that rely on transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI). However, the TAVI procedure could dislodge embolic debris that can include pieces of arterial wall, valve tissue, calcification, foreign material and both acute and organizing thrombus. Left unaddressed, the debris may cause blockages in cerebral arteries, which could lead to peri-procedural stroke. Avoiding these complications may be possible thanks to technical and technological advancements in the medical field and particularly with the cerebral protection system SENTINEL™, which was available for the first time in Lebanon and the Middle East and North-Africa (MENA) region. On January 03, 2020, the Department of Cardiology team at HDF used the first embolic protection device in Lebanon and the region, better known as SENTINEL™, for an 83-year-old TAVI patient, with excellent results. In the same spirit, the Department of Urology at HDF has introduced a new wave of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) treatment, called Rezum. This novel technology was used at HDF, on January 21, 2020, for the first case in the Middle East. Rezum is a minimally invasive innovative technology that uses water vapor to treat BPH. Every treatment cycle requires a nine-second burst that will diffuse evenly throughout the target tissue of the prostate. Upon contact with body temperature, the vapor will condense and this shift to a liquid state will dispense concentrated energy to the surrounding cells causing prostate cells to shrink. The average number of cycles is



From the Gastroenterology Department, Prof. Raymond Sayegh and Dr. Elia Samaha

Firstly, the Department of Gastroenterology has performed a cholangioscopy using the SpyGlass™ system and electrohydraulic lithotripsy, on an 88-year-old patient with difficult biliary lithiasis of 17mm landlocked in the upper bile duct. The medical team performing this operation indicated that this innovative technique allowed a minimally invasive treatment achieved in a single session while avoiding the need for a riskier surgery. This innovation would not have been possible without the invaluable efforts and technical skills of the medical and nursing team of the Department of Gastroenterology. For their part, the Department of Cardiology at HDF recently focused on keeping up with the latest progress in treating heart valve diseases. Treating or replacing the calcified stenotic aortic valve, for example, resorts traditionally to surgery, the surgical aortic valve replacement (SAVR) commonly known as “open-heart surgery”. The minimally



The surgical team and Dr. Charbel Chalouhy, urologist

six, which makes this new technique a fast and efficient procedure compared to lengthy other classical surgical approaches. Since the FDA approval in 2015, Rezum

has been a potential alternative for treating patients with prostatic disease with minimal to no sexual side effects. In the last few months, many patients complaining of symptoms related to their enlarged prostate were treated at HDF and reported great improvement in their symptoms and successful outcomes, owing to the expertise of the hospital's highly specialized medical team. Cutting-edge treatment methods, whether at the gastroenterology, cardiology or urology department, are now available in Lebanon and performed by highly skilled and specialized physicians at HDF, hence giving hope to a large number of patients who did not have previously any chance to get the necessary ideal treatment. Hôtel-Dieu de France strives to provide the most advanced therapies to improve the quality of care offered to its patients, thanks to the innovative equipment available and the expertise and competence of its medical team.

## 25 Years of Excellence with More Than 350 000 New Patients Treated at the Eye & Ear Hospital



Board meeting: Prof. Alex Jalkh, Asst. Prof. Alexander Schakal, Asst. Prof. Amid Samaha, Asst. Prof. Elias Khoury, Asst. Prof. Bassam Romanos, Asst. Prof. Georges Azar, Dr. Georges Sfeir, Dr. Pierre Jalkh, not present Asst. Prof. Philip Rouadi

In spite of the difficult times we are going through in 2020, this year is very special to the Eye and Ear Hospital, because we are celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Eye and Ear Hospital was founded in 1995 by Professor Alex Jalkh who returned to Lebanon after having spent more than 20 years in Boston USA, first as a fellow then as an Assistant Professor in Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. 1995 was the year that Pr. Jalkh's idea of establishing a specialized hospital became a reality when he and his brother

Dr. Pierre Jalkh, the current CEO, together with prominent Ophthalmologists and Otorhinolaryngologists founded the hospital, that was the first of its kind in Lebanon and the Middle Eastern area. The hospital was able to provide excellence in medical care by joining the most qualified physicians and surgeons with the most up to date medical technology, the best in the area. Today our medical staff includes 26 Ophthalmologists, 12 and Otorhinolaryngologists and 2 plastic surgeons.

The Eye and Ear Hospital began an affiliation with St. Joseph University in 1997 to train Residents in Ophthalmology and became a Teaching University Hospital in 2011 through its affiliation with the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik to train their Residents in Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology. On this occasion we would like to thank our doctors, nurses and staff for making us fulfill the mission that we started 25 years ago “Providing the best quality of care and services for Lebanon and the Middle East region through creative leadership and innovative services”.